

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The specification and claims have been carefully reviewed in the light of the Office Action to which this amendment is responsive. By this amendment, claims 12 and 15, which have been indicated as being directed to allowable subject matter, have been rewritten in independent form as new claims 19 and 20. Independent claim 9 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 11, which has been canceled, and to more clearly distinguish over the prior art.

Claims 9 and 11 have been rejected as being anticipated by Foster (US 5,577,279) and claims 9-11 have been rejected as being anticipated by Green et al. (US 5,095,561). Reconsideration of such rejections is respectfully requested in the light of the foregoing amendments. Applicant has disclosed and claimed herein a hospital sitting up bed that can be more efficiently converted to a configuration similar to a chair and for more comfortable usage while in that position. The bed includes a height adjustable support frame having a center part, a back part, a thigh part, and a lower leg part. An actuating device is provided which includes a cam mechanism for pivoting the thigh part upwardly a slight amount relative to the center part as an incident to movement of the lower leg part downwardly toward the configuration similar to a chair and for retaining the thigh part in that position when the parts are configured similar to a chair.

The prior art lacks any teaching or suggestion of such feature. In Foster et al., upward swiveling of the thigh part occurs only when the frame is in the bed position shown in FIG. 10. When in the chair position, the portions 92,94 are flush with each other and strictly horizontal. Moreover, movement of the thigh portion 94 is caused by a piston cylinder arrangement, not a cam mechanism that is operable as an incident to movement of the lower leg part.

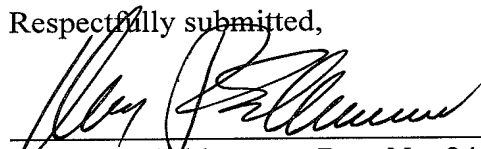
Green et al. discloses a much different arrangement in which the sitting platform is divided into two longitudinal portions. The mattress frame of the bed is divided only into three parts, namely a back rest, a central portion supporting the lower trunk and upper legs, and a lower portion supporting the lower legs and feet. When the mattress is rotated to a position transverse to the longitudinal axis of the base, as shown in FIG. 2, the portion for the lower legs and feet and swiveled downwardly. Green again lacks any suggestion of any cam

actuated device for pivoting a thigh part upwardly relative a lower leg part as called for in the claims in issue as now presented.

From the foregoing, it is believed that the claims as now presented all are directed to features which are neither disclosed nor suggested by the prior art so as to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, an early action to that effect is respectfully requested.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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